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INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 4678
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0847
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1079
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 1448
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE 1807
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE 1816
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 4965
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RHMFISS/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHMFISS/USCENTCOM TELECOM CENTER MACDILL AFB FL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PESHAWAR 000069

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/4/2019

TAGS: [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: NWFP: MILITANT ATTACK ON CARGO TERMINAL CAUSES MINIMAL
DAMAGE

REF: A) PESHAWAR 54 B) PESHAWAR 29 C) 08 PESHAWAR 527

CLASSIFIED BY: Lynne M. Tracy, Principal Officer, Peshawar,
Department of State.

REASON: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

Summary

(C) In the third incident in two months, suspected militants attacked a transport terminal near Peshawar storing NATO and ISAF supplies headed to Afghanistan March 28. Militants overwhelmed several terminal guards in the early morning attack using rocket launchers and automatic machine guns. The militants destroyed four trucks utilizing petrol bombs. Several dozen police responded within minutes, fought the attackers in a one-hour gun battle, and forced the militants to flee. Similar to an attack in early February, the police and fire brigade response seems to have been prompt. End Summary.

Militants Destroy Four Trucks

12. (C) In the third attack in two months, about 40 to 50 militants destroyed four trucks in a predawn attack on a transport terminal near Peshawar on March 28. The transport terminal, known alternately as Farhad Terminal, or Venus Terminal, carries coalition supplies, mostly food, to Afghanistan. The militants attacked at 2 am local time with rocket launchers, automatic machine guns and petrol bombs. The assault also caused the destruction of an office, six generators, and a workshop. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

13. (C) According to local authorities, several dozen police responded to the attack within minutes and engaged the militants in a one-hour gun-battle. The militants then fled with no reports of injuries or deaths at the scene.

No U.S. Military Cargo Burned

14. (C) Several local contacts reported that Farhad (Venus) Terminal does not transport U.S. military cargo, but caters instead to NATO and ISAF goods. The Farhad Terminal manager complained that, besides the four trucks, militants had caused

major destruction to his business property, not cargo.

18 Militant Targets of Opportunity

15. (S) Local contacts estimate that approximately 18 cargo terminals exist in the Peshawar area, mostly concentrated 10-15 km south of the city. These 18 privately owned cargo terminals consist of various size and are run with various degrees of professionalism. The five cargo terminals specializing in U.S military supplies, 1) Bilal; 2) Agility; 3) Raaziq International; 4) Deugro; and 5)PWL are concentrated in an approximately 4 km cluster, on Ring Road, about 15 km south of the US Consulate. Seven other cargo terminals, including Farhad (Venus), cater to NATO and ISAF supplies. Most of the 18 cargo terminals in the Peshawar area are not located in what would be called an industrial park by US standards; there is no zoning in the Peshawar region. The cargo terminals abut residential neighborhoods, causing locals constant concern about the security and allowing militants to assemble and flee into urban areas. Local contacts say that the militants know exactly which terminals contain cargo, equipment and consumable goods.

Previous Attacks

15. (C) In a previous attack on March 16, police response was slower and more cargo was damaged (Ref. A). The police response this time was similar to the timely response in early February (Ref. B). A more serious attack during December left 250 trailers destroyed and one guard dead (Ref. C).

Comment

18. (C) Attacks on cargo terminals in the Peshawar area, which

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had been front page news, are now becoming more common and moving behind the fold. Militants have 18 targets of opportunity to choose from and, because security forces are stretched thin, such attacks will likely continue in the near future. But if police response is swift as in was the case this time, damage may be limited.

TRACY